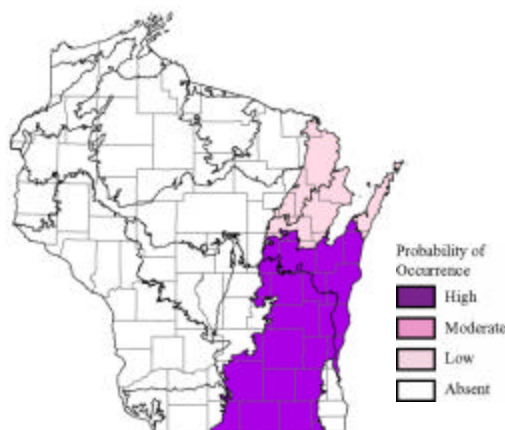


Northern Ribbon Snake (*Thamnophis sauritus*)

Species Assessment Scores*

State rarity:	5
State threats:	5
State population trend:	3
Global abundance:	3
Global distribution:	4
Global threats:	3
Global population trend:	3
Mean Risk Score:	3.7
Area of importance:	2

* Please see the [Description of Vertebrate Species Summaries \(Section 3.1.1\)](#) for definitions of criteria and scores.



Ecological Landscape Associations

Please note that this is not a range map. Shading does not imply that the species is present throughout the Landscape, but represents the probability that the species occurs somewhere in the Landscape.

Landscape-community Combinations of Highest Ecological Priority

Ecological Landscape	Community
Central Lake Michigan Coastal	Alder thicket
Central Lake Michigan Coastal	Bog relict
Central Lake Michigan Coastal	Inland lakes
Central Lake Michigan Coastal	Open bog
Central Lake Michigan Coastal	Shrub-carr
Northeast Sands	Inland lakes
Northeast Sands	Open bog
Northern Lake Michigan Coastal	Inland lakes
Northern Lake Michigan Coastal	Shrub-carr
Southeast Glacial Plains	Alder thicket
Southeast Glacial Plains	Bog relict
Southeast Glacial Plains	Inland lakes
Southeast Glacial Plains	Shrub-carr

Threats and Issues

- Net impacts of climate change are probably negative for this species, which is 'trapped' in a few isolated wetlands subject to drying and warming.
- This species is especially vulnerable as it is a 'glacial relict,' restricted to a few isolated populations that should be protected from future threats.
- Degradation and loss of habitat from development, agriculture, hydrologic impacts, and recreation threaten this species.
- Non-native invasive plants such as reed canary grass and giant reed grass negatively affect shoreline habitat suitability for this species.
- Wetland habitats are suffering from a variety of pollution problems including mercury, acid rain, salt, nutrient loads, siltation, and (where motorized traffic is heavy) fossil fuel spillage. These threats may affect both ribbon snakes and their prey base (frogs).

- Roads near known populations can reduce habitat and contribute to road mortality.

Priority Conservation Actions

- Permanent protection of the two known occupied sites (with sufficient buffers) is paramount.
- The protection of all occupied habitats is perhaps the only thing we can do to perpetuate this species. This includes protection of hydrology and management to control natural succession.
- Major strides in policy and education efforts are needed to ensure that wildlife habitat is adequately represented and considered in zoning and planning decisions.
- Surveys of bogs in southern and northeastern Wisconsin are needed to better document the range and status of this species.
- Long-term monitoring of the two known populations is needed to track trends.
- Roads near known populations should not be expanded in a manner that would reduce habitat size or quality, or increase road mortality, for this species.